

Wombwell Community Alliance
Wombwell Salvation Army
18.00 22nd January 2014

Present:

Alliance Members:

Cllr Margaret Morgan	Chair Person
Alan Taylor	Secretary
Cllr Dick Wraith	
Cllr Rob Frost	
Brian Whitaker	
Nick Weston	
Richard Ullyott	
Fiona O'Brien	BMBC
Tanya Dickinson	BMBC
Elaine Equeall	BMBC

1 Apologies:

Paul Dawson Bernslai Homes: Nigel Elliott: Tony Dutton: Kate Faulkes BMBC was unable to attend due to illness: Jordan Ramsey and Connor Barrett Netherwood School Council.

Margaret announced that Paul Tingle had resigned from the Alliance for personal reasons and that Dave Cole had resigned due to business commitments.

The constitution is clear that it is up to the three elected representatives to elect new members to the Alliance, however Margaret felt that the whole Alliance should discuss these. Two names were put forward and Alliance agreed we would issue them with expression of interest forms.

Whilst Connor and Jordan initially represented the School Council, Margaret pointed out that the Council had not been set up this year.

AP 01/2201 Alan to issue expression of interest forms.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising from earlier meetings and action Points

04/2309 Kate Faulkes To contact SNT about representation on the Alliance by 28.10.13 – due to Kate's absence this action point was transferred to Fiona.

01/2810 Margaret Morgan and Dick Wraith had approached Wilkinsons but they did not agree to this.

Therefore, in response to the original request to have a larger notice board, the Alliance agreed that the present one was large enough if it was kept up to date. New keys had been cut and these were available on request at Cole's Café for any group wishing to use the notice board.

Margaret agreed to clear out old notices monthly.

AP 02/2201 Alan to write to the individual who requested a larger notice Board.

05/2810 Margaret Morgan; Dick Wraith: Rob Frost reported that if we needed a meeting with the enforcement team then the request must come formally from the Alliance.

AP 03/2201. Alan to write to Paul Tiggerdine.

Update on the empty shops on the High Street.

Nick reported that there was resistance from the owners to us having access to the *Showboat/Gala Bingo* building and there was consultation on a new let ongoing.

He has been in touch with the agents for *Superdrug* and has asked them to at least tidy the windows. He was waiting to hear back.

4 Community Organising

Elaine Equeall (BMBC Community Engagement Consultation and Research Policy Lead) explained that as Alliances were now establishing themselves she was looking at the help that can be given to take them into delivery mode. A training programme is available on the role of 'Community Organiser' (defined as someone who supports their community and/or has something to offer)

Elaine gave out a handout (attached to these minutes) outlining the programme. She asked the Alliance to consider whether any members wished to take up the training, and for it to be publicised with Community Groups.

If necessary, parts of the programme could be 'modular' and individuals *may* be able to attend just the specific parts they choose. This will depend on 'take up' and other factors.

Elaine asked for names to be with her by 28.02.14.

She is considering whether she can attend the Community Event taking place on 30th January to help with this.

5 Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that a Community First Panel meeting was held on 14th January and two applications were agreed amounting to approximately £1400. There was still over £3000 left in the budget for 2013/14.

6 Treasurers Report

There was no Treasurers report available. Brian Whittaker was unanimously elected as the new Treasurer. Brian will meet with Dave Cole for a handover.

7 Report from the 'Plan' sub group

Fiona reported that:

- The group will be following up ideas on utilising the spare pieces of land that are around Wombwell.
- The Army Cadets are to be approached to help out at events

- The Scouts have expressed an interest in getting involved in litter picks
- Brian was looking at the possibility of a 'Town Boundary Walk' and whether signposting could be improved.
- We may make an approach to the school regarding a recycling event but the absence of a Schools Council could hamper this.
- Dog fouling in the park is to be tackled in the spring and is subject to a later agenda item.
- The issue of High Street re-generation featured highly and is subject to a later agenda item

8 Working with We Love Wombwell

Tanya reported that a Community Event was taking place on 30th January at Wombwell Operatic Society. This event would consist of Community Groups having a 'table' and discussing with others what they had delivered. The Alliance and Community First would also have tables.

Eight Groups had booked tables and Tanya was following up another two. Other groups had indicated they would call in to visit. Members of the public were also invited.

At the event there will be a consultation on a Network for Wombwell. A Network would be a simple way of sharing information and anything else members wanted. The consultation would be around how Community Groups would like to benefit from a network i.e. regular emails, yearly events, website etc. The consultation will also cover the name of the network.

Several points were made by Alliance Members

- The Alliance agreed that it needed to grasp this opportunity **to take a lead** in Community Affairs in Wombwell.
- Any network group needs to operate to criteria of openness, fairness and honest non-confrontational communication.
- Any network group has to have its purpose defined and if appropriate Terms of Reference set as opposed to a formal constitution.
- A new name would be preferable to demonstrate this was something new.

All Alliance members were encouraged to attend on the evening to help and to make the points about the network.

6 High Street Re-Generation and the High Street Innovation Fund

The Alliance was reminded that there was still £10k in existence from the High Street Innovation Fund (Mary Portas money) that had not been spent. This had been delegated to the High Street Committee to develop a plan to erect a canopy on High Street. This plan was showing no signs of moving forward.

This was discussed at the 'Plan' Sub Group and agreed we need to move forward in a different direction. Rob has suggested that the sub group meets with Anne Untisz, the Barnsley Town Centre Manager, to discuss the possibility of some semi-permanent Market Stalls being bought and how we can help develop further market businesses. The £10K could be used along with some Alliance funds and possibly Community First Funds.

The Alliance endorsed this approach and agreed the sub group should move it forward.

7 Dog Fouling

Alan presented a paper (beginning to be called Poo in the Park) outlining plans in the lead up to Picnic in the Park to tackle dog fouling.

The proposal is:

- One or two evening 'events' perhaps May and in the weeks leading to Picnic in the Park.
- These events would build on reports of successful initiatives in other parts of UK.
- Local residents would be targeted in advance to see if they would get involved in the delivery.
- Leaflets would be handed out on the selected dates along with free dog poo bags.
- 'Affected areas' would be sprayed with fluorescent paint to highlight the problem.
- 'Pick it up' signs would be sprayed in many areas of the park.

BMBC Parks have been consulted and are in agreement.

If successful, the event could be repeated in other areas of Wombwell.

Provision of poo bags, reusable stencils and fluorescent paint will cost in the region of £300 for the two Park events.

The Alliance agreed the plan.

8 Community Consultation

Elaine explained that a community consultation was taking place and members of the public would be randomly issued with forms to fill in. She invited Alliance members to fill a form in and handed some out. These can also be completed on line.

These may also be issued at the community event on 30th January.

9 Dates of Next Meetings

Alliance

All 6pm starts: Venue **Netherwood School:**

Wed 9th April 2014

Wed 18th June 2014

Thursday 18th September 2014

Community First

Monday 3rd March 10.30 **Netherwood School.**

ANNEXE 1 Community Organising Handout

Strengthening Community involvement through Ward Alliances**Developing Community Organisers****What is a Community Organiser?**

A Community Organiser is someone who is a resident member of a community who cares enough to make a difference to the area they live in by getting involved. They are best placed to find out what matters most in an area by using the networks they have as a resident to talk to people, putting residents in touch with others for support, and encouraging new people to get involved in their community.

Why do we need local Community Organisers?

Each Ward Alliance may have different needs and therefore the ask from the Community Organiser will vary, but essentially there are three main ways a Community Organiser can be of benefit to the Ward Alliance

- Supporting the community through networking – increasing awareness and involvement
- Sign-posting – directing people to support
- Consulting – being the eyes and ears of the community

So, for example, a Community Organiser might

- Attend local community group meetings to publicise and encourage involvement in local events/volunteering opportunities organised by the ward alliance
- Ask local residents for their views on the priorities in the ward plan
- Talk to residents about what they think they could do to help meet some of the things that need doing in their community and put them in touch with others in the community who can help to make this happen
- Promote and encourage groups to be part of the neighbourhood network
- Provide support to specific initiatives funded through the ward alliance that rely on wider community involvement such as health trainers, good neighbours schemes or street wardens

This list will grow over time as Ward Alliances start to develop their plans.

Who could become a Community Organiser?

Ideally Community Organisers will be

- Local residents who have a reasonably good knowledge of their local area and an interest in what happens there.
- They may be already well known to others in their area through formal or informal community networks (e.g. member of an active local community group, a good neighbour / looks out for people in the area so is well known, or may be involved with activities through their children.)

As voluntary positions, the motivation for involvement may be to develop new skills to help gain future employment, enhance the skills they have already for participating in the local community or for personal development reasons.

In the first instance Community Organisers may be community representatives of the Ward Alliances, members of neighbourhood network organisations or people who have been active in the community for some time.

The training available (see below for more detail) will provide an opportunity to learn more about the new local planning and decision making arrangements, provide new skills, and help to build on any previous experience of being an active member of the community.

By having Community Organisers, Ward Alliances will have the opportunity to develop confident, skilled people who can help to make things happen. In the longer term the first round of Community Organisers will become the recruiters and buddies for future Community Organisers.

How would we recruit community organisers?

Ward Alliances will need to promote the roles amongst their networks to generate interest within the community. BMBC Communities and Area Governance service will then provide support with a simple recruitment process based on an expression of interest form (see attached) followed by an invitation to those expressing interest to attend a 'welcome workshop' to explain more about the role, the training and the support available. This will ensure people coming forward can be clear about what is expected from them, and what they can expect from the support offered.

What training and support would be available?

A training programme (which will be free of charge) is offered through the ***Learn Barnsley!*** Community Learning Trust. The aim will be to provide training which provides a general set of information and skills useful to all Community Organisers but then also provides some optional elements which can be tailored to meet the needs within each area (focussing perhaps around the priorities of the Ward Alliance). For individuals undertaking the training, the aim is to provide something which is accessible and offers the potential for future development/progression through accreditation.

The main core training will include

How your area works

- *Process for local decision making (the new area arrangements)*
- *Services supporting the local area*
- *Planning at a local level - what make a good plan?*

Building informal networks and partnerships

- *What is a network*
- *Mapping and developing networks in a local area*

Introduction to community based information and advice

- *Structured conversations*
- *Gathering information*
- *Personal action planning*

Supporting community groups

- Community group structures
- Charing meetings
- Minute taking
- Fundraising/ developing projects

- Communication for community groups

Your role as a Community Organiser

- Getting others involved in your community
- Working with your ward alliance
- Supporting community projects and activities
- Equality and Diversity – promoting involvement from all sections of the community

Optional additional elements (based on the need of the Ward Alliance) could include

Researcher Skills

- *Interviewing skills*
- *Gathering and recording information*

Introduction to marketing and communications for neighbourhood networks

- *Basic web design*
- *Using social media to communicate*

Learning, Skills and Employability

- *Welfare reform changes*
- *Local support agencies*
- *Demonstrating personal skills for employability*

Health and Wellbeing in the community

- *Understanding health and wellbeing in the community*
- *Working with local support*
- *Safeguarding*

How much would it cost?

Support to the programme is available at no cost to Ward Alliances through the BMBC Communities and Area Governance service in partnership with **LearnBarnsley!** Community Learning Trust. This represents BMBC's commitment to supporting communities to develop the new area arrangements. However, Ward Alliances will need to make some provision to support Community Organisers through reimbursement of expenses such as travel to learning, childcare cost etc. as volunteers in their role.

As part of the wider BMBC campaign to support volunteering, we are seeking to develop a reward and recognition scheme, whereby volunteers will be able to log their hours in exchange for rewards. Further details of this will be available at a later stage, but community organisers will benefit from this scheme in the longer term.

To find out more about the community organiser role and how your ward alliance might benefit from this please contact Elaine Equeall at Elaineequeall@barnsley.gov.uk or telephone 01226 773014

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